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SIPDIS

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EMBASSIES FOR PAOS, IOS

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, MARCH 1, 2005

11. The Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Herald" carried a full-page article titled "Private security behind executions" with the subheading "According to a State Department report, there is collusion among public and private security corps to organize death squads to execute young people." It also ran a story entitled "Investigation unit without support or financial resources."

12. The San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" ran a full-page EFE story titled "Summary executions persist in Honduras" with the subheading "The annual report of the State Department says that former public security officials have worked with members of the business community to organize death squads." The paper also carried an article containing a statement of the Honduran Deputy Minister of Public Security Armando Calidonio titled "Their investigations are not scientific," as well as a statement by Oscar Alvarez, Minister of Public Security, who said "Some human rights organizations are trying to tarnish the image of Honduras to get more funds from abroad."

13. The Tegucigalpa-based liberal newspaper "La Tribuna" ran an AP story containing a summary of the Human Rights Report from all Central American countries and the Dominican Republic titled "According to a U.S. report, members of the police committed extrajudicial killings."

Palmer